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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 416th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 20 May 1992, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 46/49 (continued)

1. Mr. ADALA (Kenya) said that his delegation had listened with interest to the information provided by the Chairman and the subsequent comments made by various delegations, in particular regarding the methods and enhanced effectiveness of the Committee's work, and it shared the concern of other delegations about the unwillingness of some countries to take part in the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean. As the General Assembly had pointed out in its resolution 46/49 of 9 December 1991, the success of the Conference depended on the active participation of all the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean.

2. Since the adoption of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace in 1971, sweeping changes had taken place in international relations. While cold war tension had largely abated, it had not yet entirely disappeared. His delegation considered that the goal of the 1971 Declaration was not only to reduce but to eliminate the tension caused by Great Power rivalry in the Indian Ocean. At the same time, the Declaration contained provisions referring to the cold war era which, as the representative of Australia had pointed out earlier, had been well-founded at the time. It sufficed to glance at the Charter of the United Nations to find references in it to "enemy states", which fully reflected the situation at the time of its adoption. His delegation supported the countries that continually reminded the Organization of the need to repudiate such formulations in the Charter, since they were archaic, outdated and did not take account of the new international situation. It was possible that some of those States would withdraw from the United Nations if such formulations were not deleted.

3. The 1971 Declaration was a historic document, and it should not be repudiated or renounced. The work of the Committee provided an excellent opportunity for achieving success in strengthening security in the Indian Ocean region. Neither the goals of the Declaration, nor the Committee's mandate conflicted in any way with the interests of any State, since under the Charter one of the purposes of the United Nations was to maintain international peace and security and, to that end, to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace.

4. His delegation noted that a consensus had been reached during informal consultations, and it was pleased at the promising results of the consultations that had been held with representatives of a number of States, which might make it possible to come nearer to the goal of establishing a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean. His delegation supported the proposal to postpone, once again, the Conference on the Indian Ocean. In the meantime, the Chairman would have an opportunity to hold further consultations so that everyone could be convinced of the unity of the purposes and tasks of the participants in that process. In that regard, the Committee should hold a

(Mr. Adala, Kenya)

meeting immediately before the opening of the next session of the General Assembly, so that it could submit to the General Assembly for consideration a draft resolution that had been adopted unanimously. It was extremely important that, regardless of the outcome of the consultations, the draft resolution or resolutions submitted to the General Assembly were adopted by consensus.

5. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee continue its informal consultations.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.